TROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has set up a new project in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been conducting exploration in the Rajasthan basin since 1964. Earlier these activities were being conducted with Jodhpur as the operational base. Now ONGC has established a forward base of the Rajasthan Project at Jaisalmer to facilitate operational requirements.

Self-sufficiency in the field of Chemical Products

*154. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the chemical industry in the country has made an impressive growth making the country self-sufficient in chemical products and emerging an important supplier in export market ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the export of chemical products in the years to come to earn more foreign exchange ; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Chemical Industry has made rapid strides in the last two decades and the country has become self-sufficient in most of the major heavy chemicals.

2. Export of Chemicals and allied items has recorded a steady growth in recent years. As against Rs. 783 crores in 1987-88, the value of export of these items was Rs. 2119 crores during the year 1989-90. For the year 1990-91, an export target of Rs. 3050 crores has been fixed for chemical sector.

3. Incentives available for exporting units in general such as, the facility of duty-free import of raw materials under the Duty Exemption Entitlement Scheme, Duty Drawback, Import Replenishment Licences, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act in respect of export profits and Cash Compensatory Support (CCS), wherever applicable, are available to the units in the chemical sector also.

Celebration of 'World No Tobacco Day'

*155. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what steps were taken by Government in connection with the celebration of 'World No Tobacco Day' on 31st May, 1990 to bring about awareness amongst the youth against smoking and consumption of tobacco ; and

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to study the impact and if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) The following steps were taken by the

Government in connection with the celebration of the 'World No Tobacco Day' on 31st May, 1990 :—

(i) A symposium on Tobacco & Health was organised by the Central Health Education Bureau, New Delhi at India International Centre on 31st May, 1990. An exhibition on the theme was also displayed at the Centre.

(ii) Letters have been issued to the Secretaries of all the Central Government Ministries to ban smoking within the ministerial premises,

(iii) Press advertisements were released and material on Tobacco related diseases and harmful effect of tobacco was sent to State Health Education bureaus in the country to mount regional specific programmes for educating the masses. Materials were also sent to various stations of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

(iv) All India Radio and Delhi Doordarshan provided coverage emphasising the importance of the Day. It also featured in the News telecast both in Hindi and in English.

(b) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Sharing of Bombay High Gas with State Governments

*156. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to share Bombay High gas with the State Governments for domestic use and down stream industrial use ; and

(b) how much gas is produced at present and what is the share of Maharashtra and other States like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab etc. in it ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Natural Gas produced in Bombay High is evacuated through two pipelines to onland terminals at Uran in Maharashtra and Hazira in Gujarat for supply to consumers in various states.

(b) The average total production of natural gas from Western Offshore fields, including Bombay High, during the month of July, 1990 was around 37 million cubic metres per day. 30% of the Western Offshore gas is supplied ex-Uran Terminal to industries in Maharashtra and 34% is supplied ex-Hazira Terminal in Gujarat to consumers located in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh through the HBJ Pipeline. 9.8% of the offshore gas is utilised by ONGC for internal consumption and the remaining 26.2% has to be flared on account of inadequate facilities for dehydration, compression and transportation of this gas to onshore terminal for supply to consumers.

Import of drilling rigs by ONGC

*157. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is importing a number of drilling rigs for its on-going drilling operations in various parts of the country ;

(b) what are the names of the foreign companies engaged in these operations ; and whether the rigs are also being supplied to ONGC on contract basis